

BLONDIE



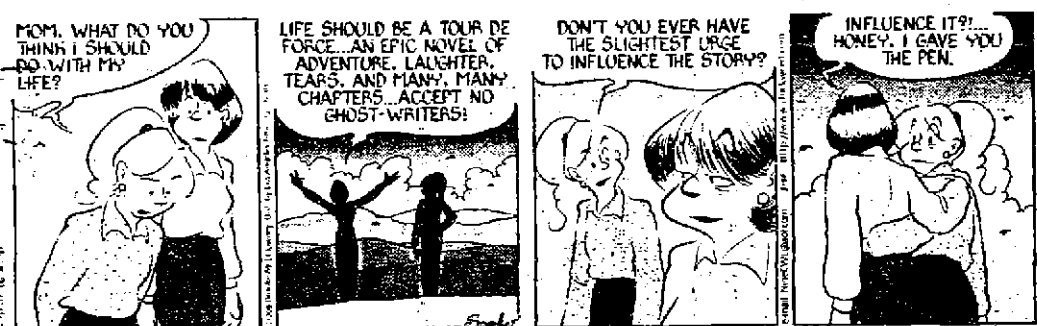
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



CHICKWEED LANE



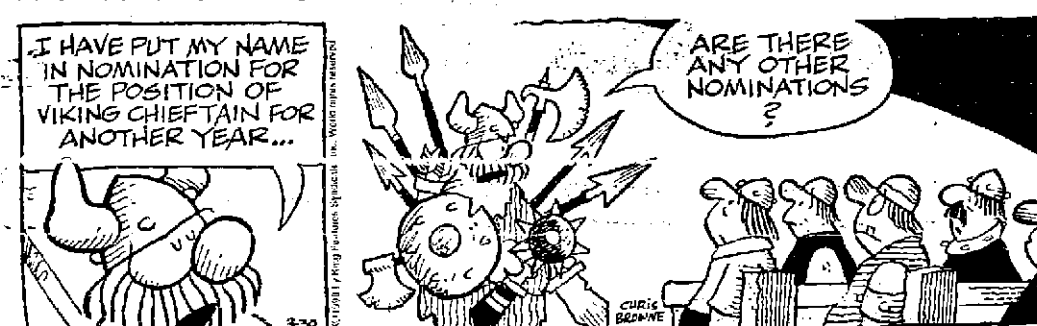
ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



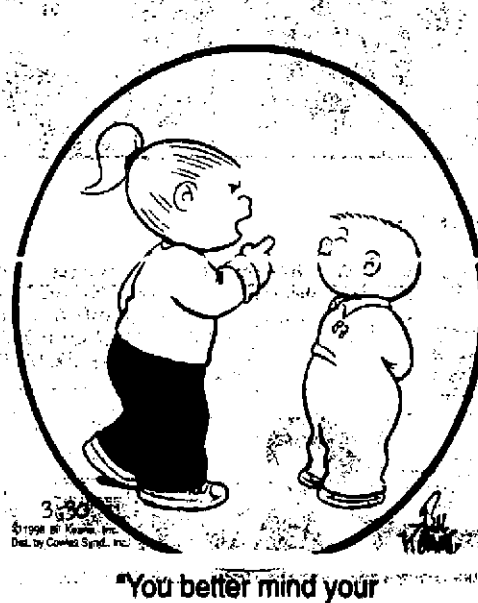
DILBERT



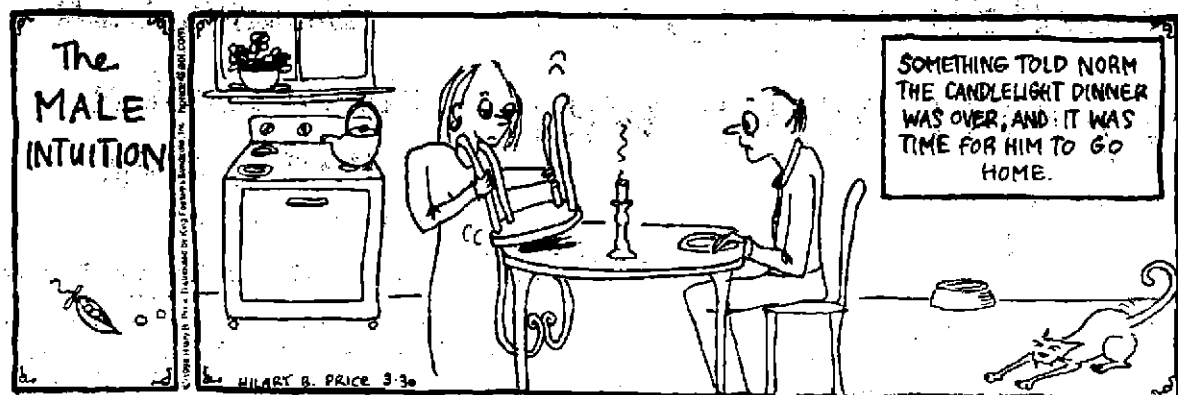
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Singer **Frankie Laine** is 85. Former CIA Director **Richard Helms** is 85. Actor **John Astin** is 68. Game show host **Bob Barker** is 68. Actor-director **Warren Beatty** is 61. Rock musician **Graeme Edge** is 57. Rock musician **Eric Clapton** is 53. Actor **Robbie Coltrane** is 48. Actor **Paul Reiser** is 41. Rap artist **MC Hammer** is 35. Singer **Tracy Chapman** is 34. Actor **Ian Ziering** is 34. Singer **Celine Dion** is 30.

I NEED HELP



Bob Dylan at the Curly Gates.

SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 250-260 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chenbers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

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R	X	H	D	Y	Y	O
M	Q	T	K	A	U	U
H	G	N	U	U	O	T
C	S	A	I	Z	D	O

TRADE Word Score
50
50
50
50

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

- Tube

HY Z W T Q N K I F C Z W U R
P M A J E W H G E N C M Z X U
O S Q R L A N L N A J U G E C
Z D X V E R U T C I P U T R P
N L E J C D H H I P K C E C A
Y W V P T T O S T O R A G E R
P N R T R L K H A L I V E G E
C B Z E O O X W T L U S I P R
P O M L N T T J S A F I G G S
E D B A Y N I X E F C W E U T
S Q P O N L I P T K Y A R X J

Saturday's unlisted clue: TEAR

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Monday's unlisted clue hint: TUBE INSIDE A TIRE

Cathode-ray	Flash	Speaking	Torpedo
Draw	Geiger	Static	Vacuum
Election	Picture	Storage	X-ray
Fallopian	Pilot	Test	

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Tuesday, March 31, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You could receive conflicting advice from two respected sources. Don't be surprised if you are romantically drawn to someone from afar.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You run into someone you haven't seen in a while. Business and pleasure mix to your advantage.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Some unusual friends are apt to enter your life. Flirtations are possible, and cultural entertainments are likely.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Loved ones opt for each other's company. You could do a special favor for a friend or send a thoughtful gift.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Attention to personal appearance brings you compliments. Your charm and sincerity open doors for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You spend some money on yourself, but you could have trouble making up your mind about a purchase.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Partners are in sync with each other. Some pleasant news comes regarding a family matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Although entertaining is favored, a guest holds you up. In any case, home life is cheerfully accented.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're pleased with the progress or behavior of a child. It's a romantic time for singles and for couples.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Your charm works well for you on the job. Employers hire new help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) The picture changes rapidly about an investment matter. Others find you attractive, and your love life blossoms as a result.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You could be tempted to invest in a luxury item or art object. Later in the day, you are the happy recipient of a gift.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

"Where are the percentage tables when I need them?" railed an irritated South. "The chances for East to hold either the club king or the jack and 10 were decidedly in my favor." "You're dreaming," countered North. "Why rely on the fickle percentage tables when you have a sure bet?" South took his heart ace, drew trumps, and discarded his losing heart on the third round of diamonds. Needing only moderate luck in clubs, South led a club back to his nine and lost to West's jack.

West punched South in hearts, and South crossed to dummy to repeat the club finesse. This also lost, and South's dream slam turned into a nightmare. How should South have played to ensure 12 winners? After winning his heart ace, South should draw only one trump before cashing three diamonds to discard his heart loser. (A diamond ruff is highly improbable.) Then he ruffs a heart and leads a trump to dummy to ruff dummy's last heart. He leads another trump to dummy to lead a club, South covering whatever card East plays. When West wins, he has no safe lead, and South has his 12th winner. Why is it important to draw only one trump before cashing dummy's diamonds? If South cashes two trumps first, he must use two of dummy's trump entries to ruff two hearts. This leaves dummy with no more trumps, and there is no endplay on West.

NORTH 60-30-A
 ♠ A Q 10 7
 ♥ 6 5 3
 ♦ A Q J
 ♣ 8 7 5

WEST
 ♠ 3 4
 ♥ J 10 9 8
 ♦ 6 4 3
 ♣ K J 4 2

EAST
 ♠ 3
 ♥ K Q 7 2
 ♦ 10 9 8 5 2
 ♣ 10 6 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K J 9 8 6 2
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ A 9

Vulnerable: Both

Dealer: South

The bidding:

	South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass	
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass	
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Dbl.	
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Heart jack

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0216

ACROSS

- 1 From a distance
5 Zeal
10 Wrestling surfaces
14 Writer Ephron
15 Chessman
16 Here, in Honduras
17 — Alexander (Hall-of-Fame pitcher)
20 Surgery tool
21 Zsa Zsa's sister
22 Slander's counterpart
23 CBS logo
24 It makes the heart grow fonder
27 Is for more than one?
28 Middle of a simile
29 Last number in a countdown
31 — Duke (tobacco magnate)
32 Police officers
33 Yankee manager Joe
40 Common dog's name
42 Dadaist Jean
43 — non grata
46 Also
48 — Yello (soft drink)
49 Snooze
50 Gown
51 "The magic word"
53 Portuguese islands
54 — Toole (Pulitzer-winning novelist)
56 Tiff
60 Golfer's gouge
61 Corp. bigwig
64 Circle parts
65 Best of a group
66 Requirement
67 Stopped sleeping
68 Meted (out)
69 Sounds of disapproval

DOWN

- 1 What a protractor measures
2 Quick raid
3 Got out of bed
4 Great review
5 Busy mo. for the I.R.S.
6 Reduces to bits, as potatoes
7 Search (into)
8 Pacific, for one
9 Gun the engine
10 Niger's western neighbor
11 Gulf between Saudi Arabia and Egypt
12 Piano fixer
13 Move furtively
14 Clear the chalkboard
15 Actress Verdugo
26 Moisten the turkey
31 Sen. William
32 Mornings, for short
33 Naval rank: Abbr.
34 — Major (Great Bear)
35 Riding whip
36 Kiwis
37 Gallows loop
38 Pitch a tent
41 Light throw
43 Fancy schmancy
44 Ankle tool
47 Noted Chinese philosopher
48 Mouse or beaver, e.g.
49 Finished
50 Chipped in chips
51 Amount in a drug shipment
52 Wicked
53 Memo
54 Trite saying
55 In favor of
56 Mouse hater's cry
57 Record store purchases

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle

1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.